

**DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 26, 2008**

Members Present: Ennis, Lardizzone, Evans, Harden, Lank, Smith, Spitzfaden and Wasson

Members Excused: Carroll, Corsa, Newstadt, Kitson, Thompson and Timberman

Staff Present: Davila, Reid and Moyer

Guests: Al Carter (SOS), Ron Sarg (MOAA), Bill McMullen (AF Sergeants Association), Gary Morris (American Legion) and David Rich (DOL)

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to our Nation's Flag.

Vice Chairman Lardizzone opened the meeting by addressing the guests.

**MOTION BY HARDEN TO ACCEPT JULY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES, SECONDED BY LANK, MOTION CARRIED.**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**COMMEMORATIVE AFFAIRS**

Mr. Davila reported that the KWVA is working on getting their guest speaker for Veterans Day. He mentioned that MG Vavala will be providing the National Guard Band at the Memorial Day Ceremony in 2009.

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Commissioner Lank reported that the Committee received two requests for waivers for admission into the Veterans Home; one was approved and one was denied. He explained the circumstances of each case.

**MOTION BY LANK TO ACCEPT THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS, SECONDED BY HARDEN, MOTION CARRIED.**

Commissioner Lank reported that the committee that was formed to review the details pertaining to the donation tree at the Veterans Home met and he presented the outcome. There were questions and suggestions presented in reference to this issue and they were followed by discussion. Mr. Davila reported that the Friends of the Veterans Home Fund balance is currently \$496,119.04 and the Delaware Veterans Home Fund is \$104,286.38.

**MOTION BY LANK TO ESTABLISH THE DOLLAR AMOUNTS ON THE DONATION TREE AT THE VETERANS HOME AT: \$250 FOR THE BRONZE LEAF, \$500 FOR THE SILVER LEAF AND \$1000 FOR THE GOLD LEAF, SECONDED BY WASSON, MOTION CARRIED.**

## **PERSONNEL**

Commissioner Lardizzone reported that JJ Jones (Southern Cemetery Administrator) was still on leave without pay. The Southern Family Advisory Cemetery Committee (FACC) is scheduled to meet on September 10, 2008, at 6:00 PM.

Mr. Reid introduced the new Veterans Home Admissions Coordinator, Rebecca Moyer. Mr. Reid provided the Veterans Home operational update and briefed the Commission. He also reported on current activities happening at the Veterans Home. Mr. Davila shared that Jack Markel visited the Veterans Home. There was discussion about placing monuments on the Veterans Home grounds. Mr. Davila updated the Commissioners about the changes to the Veterans Advisory meeting that was previously scheduled for September 17, 2008, 1:00 PM, has been changed to September 18, 2008, same time.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS**

Evans (American Legion) – Their National Convention is about to begin in Phoenix, AZ.

Spitzfaden (MOAA) – Their organization will start conducting meetings again in September.

Smith (AMVETS) – AMVETS just concluded their 64<sup>th</sup> Convention in Orlando, FL.

Lank (MOWW) – They will start their meetings again in September.

Ennis (KWVA) – They have secured a speaker for Veterans Day. He also reported that several of the Commissioners and staff met with the Secretary of State and discussed policies for notification of occurrences at the Veterans Home and has a procedure established. The VVA held a fundraiser at the Levy Court building on August 16, 2008, to raise money for the VVA monument. There will be a VAVS Homecoming event on September 6, 2008, at the Wilmington VA Hospital.

Lardizzone (DAV) – He attended the DAV 87<sup>th</sup> National Convention in Las Vegas, NV, and they have a new National Commander. They had a mortgage burning ceremony on Saturday, August 23, 2008; they paid off their main building and extension.

Harden (WAVES) – She also attended the VAVS meeting for the upcoming Home Coming Event.

Mr. Carter thanked Commissioner Lank and Mr. Reid for attending the golf tournament and was very pleased with the proceeds. There was discussion about future locations of the golf tournament and the Veterans Home fund donations. Chairman Ennis asked for names of organizations or corporations that may be interested in contributing to the foundation.

Mr. Davila read the new “Foreclosure Prevention Act” bill.

## **ITEMS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORGANIZATION**

Mr. McMullen announced that the National Guard Association of the United States will be having their National Conference in Baltimore, MD, September 18-21, 2008, and the presidential candidates are expected to attend.

Commissioner Spitzfaden and Chairman Ennis requested an accounting inventory of the Veterans Home Fund; all monies donated and used.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:      SEPTEMBER 23, 2008 (10:00 AM)**

**LOCATION:                      Robbins Bldg, 802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100  
Dover, DE**

**ADJOURNED**